

solid American citizen who worked hard to implement the right values. He contributed to society because he saw needs and filled them. Thank you, Mr. Chandler.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1141,
1999 EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATIONS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 18, 1999

Mr. HILL of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, today the House voted on the Conference Report of H.R. 1141, the 1999 Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Bill. I voted against this bill and would like to explain my vote.

Some of the spending items in this bill were bona fide emergencies. One emergency is supporting our troops currently deployed overseas in Kosovo. I have voted several times to support our troops and the NATO operation in Kosovo. When our generals say they need 6 billion dollars to support our troops in Kosovo, I believe that is legitimate emergency spending.

I spoke recently on the floor of this House about the emergency many American farmers are facing at this moment. Farmers need credit right now to plant their crops and pay their bills. I am a member of the Agriculture Committee and represent thousands of southern Indiana farmers. I believe that getting our farmers adequate loans and credit should be one of our top priorities. I believe helping farmers stay afloat is also legitimate emergency spending.

But this bill spends billions of dollars on items that are not emergencies. For example, today's bill spends almost twice what our generals say they need to meet our troops' needs in Kosovo. I am a member of the House Armed Services Committee and understand that our military has many pressing needs. One of our military's most urgent needs is giving our soldiers pay and retirement increases. I will support increases in defense spending during the regular budget process. I believe that fiscal responsibility requires us to consider measures such as these during the normal budget process, where we make the often difficult decisions about how we spend our limited resources.

It is not fiscally responsible to reach into the surpluses in the Social Security Trust Fund to pay for government projects that we should be finding ways to pay for in the normal budget process. We only have a budget surplus this year if we count the surpluses generated by the Social Security Trust Fund. We should not be using the money in the Social Security Trust Fund to pay for needs that are not emergencies.

One of my top priorities in Congress is making sure that the Social Security program will be solid and solvent for future generations. Our government does not have many more pressing needs than saving Social Security. I will not vote for spending our Social Security funds on items that are not emergencies.

Mr. Speaker, I did not vote for the Supplemental Appropriations bill because the original

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purpose of this so-called "Emergency" bill was lost somewhere in the process. It became a way to spend billions of dollars outside of the budget process we have set up to control our spending. The final version of this bill was not fiscally responsible and I could not vote for it.

CELEBRATING THE DEDICATION
OF THE LIMA FIREFIGHTERS
MEMORIAL MUSEUM

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 20, 1999

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to add a few words of praise for the dedication of the Lima Fire Fighters Memorial Museum.

The Lima Fire Department has provided outstanding basic fire fighting and safety services to the Lima community since its formation in 1865. The museum built in Lincoln Park in Lima OH, will preserve the history of the Lima Fire Department as well as all the technological changes they have implemented over the past 133 years.

When the Lima Fire Department was first established in 1865, it was a volunteer organization consisting of seven men with their only equipment being six fire hooks. These hooks were used to pull burning thatch from the roofs of buildings. Over the years, however, the Lima Fire Department developed into a paid, highly trained force of 88 fire fighters and support personnel working in a three platoon system. They are housed at the Central Fire Station and four outlying stations. Equipment now includes seven pumpers, one aerial platform, two medic units and a staff car. Approximately 700 fire fighters have served the city of Lima as members of the Lima Fire Department.

More importantly, this museum will memorialize all fire fighters who have served the Lima Community and especially the four Lima fire fighters who have given their lives in the line of duty. They are John S. Wolf and John Fisher, both of whom died as a result of the Allen County Courthouse fire on January 7, 1929; Frank Kinzer, who died because of a fire on October 7, 1933, at the Ohio Music Company and Page Organ Company; and lastly, Cloyd R. Webb, who died as a result of the Marshall Sporting Goods fire on January 21, 1954.

I wish to offer my sincere gratitude to all who are serving or who served as Lima fire fighters. They perform a valuable and dangerous task for the Lima community during times of great need. I honor each and every fire fighter for their dedication, knowledge, and hard work and hope that the Lima Fire Fighters Memorial Museum will stand as a tribute to each of them for all time.

May 20, 1999

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND
SPACE ADMINISTRATION AU-
THORIZATION ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. MICHAEL N. CASTLE

OF DELAWARE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 1999

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1654) to authorize appropriations for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for fiscal years 2000, 2001, and 2002, and for other purposes:

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Chairman, today the House of Representatives considers an important bill to improve and strengthen U.S. leadership in space exploration. This bill, the "National Aeronautics and Space Administration Authorization Act" includes approval of funds for U.S. participation in the International Space Station, funds for aerospace and earth science research and funds for space science programs. These are all important programs and worthy goals. However, I rise to speak in support of an important technology for our future efforts to explore space: funding for research and develop into TransHab technology.

TransHab uses inflatable structure technology to package a much larger living and working volume in the equivalent Shuttle cargo size. In theory, the TransHab concept has more volume and radiation shielding when compared with the current Habitation module. TransHab could also serve as a technology demonstration for the human exploration of Mars. The NASA reauthorization bill currently prohibits NASA from making additional expenditures on any inflatable structure intended to replace current models on the International Space Station. However, the bill does leave the possibility for research and development of crew-related inflatable structures in FY01 and FY02.

I understand the financial concerns the Committee on Science has expressed regarding funding TransHab technology for the International Space Station. Ideally, I would like to see TransHab technology funded now for the station, but I agree that in a time when Congress is struggling to keep the federal budget balanced, all federal programs should receive scrutiny and careful consideration. However, I think that it is very important that the Committee continue to keep the door open on TransHab funding in the future. Those familiar with TransHab technology believe that this technology validates potential technology for future solar system exploration. TransHab technology could possibly mean a manned exploration of Mars which could result in a wealth of scientific information previously unavailable.

I believe that scientific research is vital to the current and future prosperity of our nation. I think we owe it to ourselves, to our nation, and especially to our children to keep the dream of manned space exploration alive. TransHab technology is an investment in our future. To permanently close the door on such research and development jeopardizes this nation's preeminence in science and technology.